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1962/10/23

2119
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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42-48

Action

Control: 17516
Rec'd: October 24, 1962
2:45 a.m. R

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FROM: Quito

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 281, October 23, 7 p.m.

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Local atmosphere generally calm in wake Kennedy statement and U.S. actions on Cuba. No violence or significant demonstrations thus far. Text Kennedy statement and wire service stories fully reported press but no editorial comment yet. Likewise no public official reaction. Private official reaction ranges from enthusiasm to guarded approval.

I saw Vice-President, in absence President, hour before broadcast yesterday, discussed problem and text. He expressed strong approval and said would do all possible secure Ecuadorian cooperation. Said doubtful he or Foreign Minister able reach President or that Arosemena would be able to take command in present situation. Eventually decisions taken by Vice-President and Foreign Minister together, and Ecuadorian OAS delegation instructed accordingly. Still no reaction from Arosemena. Secretary General Administration Ycaza who close to President styled U.S. actions inevitable. Visitador General Kingman who leftist and Cefepista said U.S. actions serious but necessary and provoked. Conservative party head Salazar elated and will issue party statement supporting U.S.

Military divided. Largest group friendly to U.S. actions but feels no personal involvement. Almost equal number militantly in favor U.S. actions. Small group opposed.

Leftist youths attempted organize demonstrations Quito noon today but failed get off ground. May be another attempt tonight

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-2- 281, October 23, 7 p.m. from Quito

Man in street generally approving U.S. actions but nervous war danger and impressed Ecuador in range of Cuban rockets.

Some individuals said U.S. did not go far enough implying U.S. should have invaded Cuba.

BERNBAUM

sjr

Note: Advance copies to S/SO.